

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00  
ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDE-00 ACDA-12 EB-08 NRC-05  
OES-07 SOE-02 DOE-15 CEQ-01 DOEE-00 /113 W  
-----083232 111655Z /43

O R 111602Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7533  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY OSLO  
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USNATO  
USNMR SHAPE  
CINC EUR VAIHINGEN  
CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 06574

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: MPOL, MNUC, PARM, GW, US  
SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON ER DECISION BY FRG POLITICAL  
FIGURES

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REFERENCE: BONN 6388 DTG 071937Z APR 78

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF REMARKS BY  
PROMINENT FRG POLITICAL FIGURES ON THE PRESIDENT'S APRIL  
7 ER ANNOUNCEMENT. THESE STATEMENTS COVER A RANGE  
FROM THE BOMBASTIC CRITICISM OF BOTH THE US AND THE

SCHMIDT GOVERNMENT BY FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS, TO THE EXPRESSION OF "EXTRAORDINARY SATISFACTION" WITH THE DECISION BY A MEMBER OF THE SPD LEFT. END SUMMARY.

1. FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS, CHAIRMAN, CHRISTIAN SOCIALIST UNION (CSU), IN AN APRIL 8 INTERVIEW WITH "DIE WELT:"

A. STRAUSS WAS HARSHLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S APRIL 7 DECISION HAD PRODUCED DOUBTS ABOUT THE PRESIDENT'S LEADERSHIP ABILITIES, ELSEWHERE SAYING, "IN MY KNOWLEDGE OF AMERICAN HISTORY AFTER WORLD WAR II, THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE IN WHICH AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT HAS PUBLICLY HEELED BEFORE A RUSSIAN CZAR." HE ALSO SAID THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE A "DAMNABLE APTITUDE TO DISAPPOINT THEIR FRIENDS AND REWARD THEIR ENEMIES."

B. STRAUSS WAS AS OUTSPOKEN ABOUT THE FRG AND OTHER ALLIES, SAYING THAT "THE EUROPEANS HAD DISPLAYED A LAMENTABLE ATTITUDE ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON," THAT SCHMIDT AND THE BONN GOVERNMENT HAD HEMMED AND HAWED AND AVOIDED THE ISSUE, AND THAT WILLY BRANDT AND EGON BAHR HAD "MANIFESTED MOSCOW'S POSITION ON THIS QUESTION CLEARLY," AND THAT THEY COULD NOW "TRIUMPHANTLY STATE THAT THEY HAD PREVAILED."

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C. STRAUSS ALSO STRESSED THAT THE FRG ALLIANCE WITH THE U.S. IS THE KEY TO ITS SECURITY, THAT ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENTS WERE WHOLLY OUT OF PLACE, BUT THAT THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE PRESIDENT'S ACTION SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR TO HIM.

2. FRG SPOKESMAN BOELLING SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT SAYING: (A) THAT THE FRG AND OTHER ALLIES HAD NEVER NEGLECTED THEIR SECURITY INTERESTS; (B) THAT THE FRG AND THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAD WORKED CONSTRUCTIVELY DURING ALL PHASES OF DISCUSSION ON THE ERW AND (C) THAT STRAUSS' "UNCONTROLLED WORDS" AGAIN SHOW THAT HE ENGAGES IN RISKY POLEMICS.

3. WERNER MARX, BUNDESTAG FOREIGN POLICY SPOKESMAN FOR THE CDU, IN RADIO AND TV INTERVIEWS APRIL 8:

A. MARX SAID THAT THE ER DECISION HAD COME AS A GREAT SURPRISE, ALSO BRINGING "CONSIDERABLE IRRITATION." FURTHER, U.S. HANDLING OF THE MATTER HAD BROUGHT SOME FEELINGS OF EUROPEAN INSECURITY AND LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP. MARX ALSO SAID THAT, TO BE

FAIR, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE EUROPEANS HAD BEEN  
TIMID ON THIS SUBJECT, AND SOME IN EUROPE HAD "WILDLY  
POLEMIZED" AGAINST THE ERW.

B. MARX EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM THAT THE USSR WOULD  
RESPOND TO THE ER DECISION BY REDUCING ITS FORCE LEVELS.

4. WOLFGANG MISCHNICK, CHAIRMAN OF FREE DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY (FDP) BUNDESTAG CAUCUS, IN RADIO INTERVIEW APRIL  
9:

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
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CINC USAREUR HEIDELBERG  
CINC USAFE RAMSTEIN

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A. MISCHNICK NOTED THAT THE NEWS OF BREZHNEV'S  
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FORTHCOMING VISIT TO BONN CAME AFTER REPORTS OF A  
NEGATIVE WASHINGTON DECISION ON THE ERW, AND SPECULATED  
THAT THERE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A CONNECTION, OR INDEED  
SECRET WASHINGTON-MOSCOW DISCUSSIONS.

B. MISCHNICK CRITICIZED HIS BUNDESTAG COLLEAGUE,  
FDP DEFENSE SPOKESMAN JUERGEN MOELLEMAN, FOR HAVING  
SAID THAT GENSCHER WOULD URGE THE PRESIDENT TO  
DECIDE IN FAVOR OF THE ERW DURING HIS APRIL 4 VISIT TO  
WASHINGTON.

C. HE SAID THAT, IN THE WAKE OF THE PRESIDENT'S  
APRIL 7 DECISION, HE SEES POSSIBILITIES FOR FOCUSING  
NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR ON SOVIET TANKS WITHDRAWALS.  
HE ALSO SAID THAT THE FRG SHOULD NOT SEEK TO CONDUCT  
SUCH NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR.

5. EGON BAHR, EXECUTIVE-SECRETARY, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC  
PARTY (SPD), WHO IN AUGUST HAD CALLED THE NEUTRON  
WEAPON A "PERVERSION OF THOUGHT," IN NEWSPAPER INTERVIEW  
APRIL 7:

A. COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, BAHR  
SAID THAT THE SITUATION RESULTING FROM IT IS NOT  
DRAMATIC . . . "IT EVEN CONTAINS POSITIVE POSSIBILITIES."  
BAHR THEN SAID IT SHOULD NO LONGER BE NECESSARY TO ARGUE  
SO STRONGLY ABOUT THE ERW, AND THAT IT IS NO LONGER AN  
IMPORTANT DISCUSSION TOPIC FOR THE FORTHCOMING BREZHNEV  
VISIT TO BONN.

B. BAHR ALSO SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER IT "SHORT-  
SIGHTED" TO CALL THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION A SUCCESS FOR  
THE SOVIETS. HE SAID THAT, FIRST OF ALL, IT WAS THE  
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PRESIDENT'S GOAL TO RENDER NUCLEAR WEAPONS UNNECESSARY.  
A MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION, HOWEVER, WAS THE UNSSOD.  
THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO THIS CONFERENCE

HAD IMPROVED, SINCE HE COULD NOW APPROACH BREZHNEV WITH A RANGE OF PROPOSALS WITHOUT HAVING TAKEN ANY STEPS AGAINST DETENTE THROUGH A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE NEUTRON WEAPON. IN THIS SENSE, HIS DECISION WAS A "CONTINUATION OF DETENTE POLICY."

C. BAHR SAID IT WOULD BE UP TO THE PRESIDENT TO DETERMINE IF THE SOVIETS HAD ANYTHING TO OFFER IN RETURN FOR THE ERW OPTION, AND THAT IT WOULD DEPEND ON THE SOVIETS TO SHOW IF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION WOULD LEAD TO DETENTE.

6. KARSTEN VOIGT, SPD BUNDESTAG MEMBER FROM THE PARTY'S LEFT WING, WHO HAD FOR MONTHS SPOKEN OUT AGAINST A PRODUCTION DECISION, IN TV INTERVIEW APRIL 8:

A. VOIGT SAID HE PERSONALLY WAS "EXTRAORDINARILY PLEASED" BY THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION, SEEING IN IT A STRONG IMPULSE FOR FURTHER STEPS TOWARD DETENTE.

B. HE ALSO OBSERVED THAT WASHINGTON DID NOT SHARE THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION'S "HUNGER FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS." HE SAID HE IS CONCERNED BY A "GROWING ANTI-AMERICAN ATTITUDE" IN THE OPPOSITION AS EVIDENCED BY REMARKS OF FRANZ-JOSEPH STRAUSS.

C. ASKED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT THE FRG HAD TOLD PRESIDENT CARTER ITS CONCERN OVER A NEGATIVE DECISION, VOIGT SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO SUBJECTING THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION TO QUESTIONING DURING FORTHCOMING BUNDESTAG DISCUSSIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 11 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Type:** TE  
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